

sheep have died from the effects of their presence. But the stomach-worms are the worst pest, and it is necessary, in districts where the conditions of soil and climate are favourable to their dissemination, to take practical precautions to guard against their attacks. These precautions are summarized in the following extract from the Bulletin on the subject, No. 3 (new series):—

“To realize fully the value of preventive measures, the life-history of the parasites, so far as known at the present time, must be understood. Each animal suffering from the disease daily passes innumerable ova (eggs), and, possibly, also newly hatched worms, or mature female worms, loaded with eggs, who, having fulfilled their function, die, leaving the eggs virile (a single female may produce thousands). The eggs deposited on the pasture are ready to be taken up by sheep feeding upon it, who thus continually renew their trouble. In low-lying, wet pastures these worm-‘eggs’ and, possibly, also immature worms developed from them after deposition upon the ground-surface, or voided by the infected animals, are able to retain their animal vitality outside the animal body for a much longer period than on dry and sunny land. Therefore, removal from contaminated land to dry, well-drained, not-heavily-grassed paddocks is not only essential as a matter of treatment, but the depasturing of young sheep upon such paddocks is one of the best preventive measures. It is a notable fact that a few parasites may be found in the fourth stomach of a very great proportion of healthy and vigorous young sheep—it is only when present in large number that they do noticeable harm—and, seeing that they do not multiply within the body, it is obvious that suitable outside conditions are necessary to enable them to infest sheep badly. These conditions, as already stated, are to be found in low-lying, wet, badly drained pastures, in heavily grassed land where surface water does not get away freely, and also, during wet seasons, on good, well-grassed, otherwise sound paddocks. Whenever such conditions, favourable to the propagation of the parasite, exist, a close watch should be kept, and at the first clear indication of parasitic gastritis the flock should be transferred to another paddock—the best-drained and driest available.”

As regards lung-worm, the same preventive measures apply, the conditions of soil, pasture, &c., which are favourable to the spread of the stomach-worms, being equally favourable to the worms infesting the lungs.